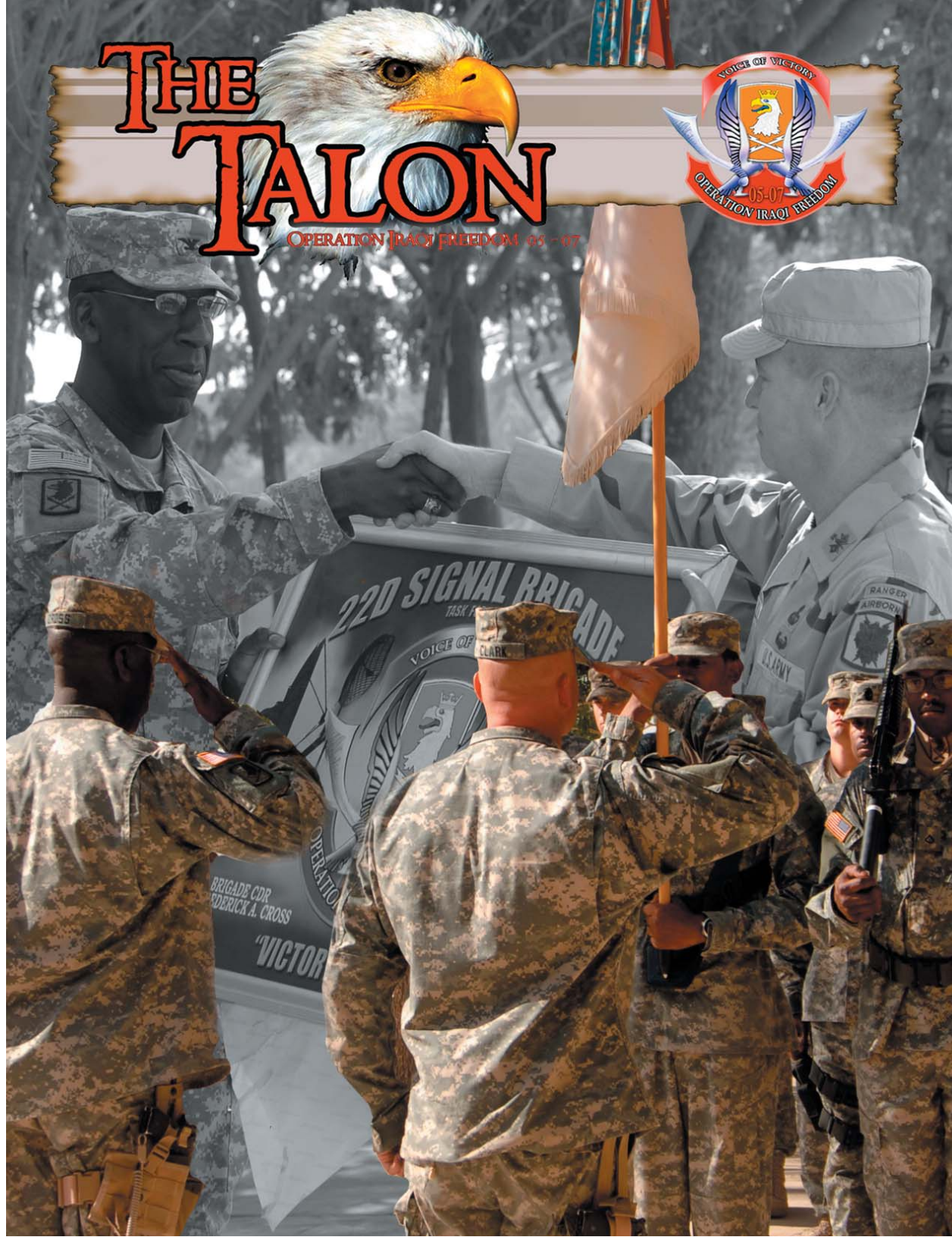


# THE TALON

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07





## TASK FORCE ADLER COMMANDER

# TEAMWORK ENSURES OUR SUCCESS!

COL Frederick A. Cross

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and to spend a little time with the best team around... the Soldiers, families and civilians that make up this great organization. It is an honor to lead such a team. I am inspired by your warrior spirit, commitment to duty, service to your nation, and the honor and respect you show your fellow Soldiers; all the attributes needed in our Soldiers as we individually and Collectively do our part to prosecute this war on terror.

We are off to a great start. I cannot be more proud of the way our Soldiers have trained, deployed, transitioned with the departing unit and assumed the mission of providing the full range of command and control communications and computers systems to the Multi-National Corps and Forces throughout Iraq... all done to standard; great job. There are many challenges that our unit will continually face, but I am confident

that our Soldiers are well focused, highly motivated and totally engaged in their duties and responsibilities of making the mission happen. As I visit, look and listen to Soldiers at work, I see Soldiers that are mission focused, disciplined, in the right uniform and maintaining the standards. As each day passes and we become more familiar with our jobs and surrounding, I expect leaders to continue to enforce the high standards we've set and make corrections and improvements where warranted.

I would like to thank and recognize all the great work being done by our Rear Detachment team. I am

including in this the professional job of running the day-to-day operations of the unit by those that wear the uniform, those family members and friends that makeup the Family Readiness Groups which volunteer their time and talents to support the Soldier and sponsor all the activities that make the unit function

that much better, and to the DOD civilians for your long standing dedication in supporting our Soldiers and mission... What an awesome team! Your combined contributions to the success of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Signal Brigade and Task Force Adler cannot be overstated.

I want to challenge every leader to be totally involved in the safety and welfare of each of our Soldiers and family members. The security and safety of our Soldiers and family members is my number one concern. Whether here in Iraq, Kuwait or back in Central Region, we cannot afford to let our guard down when it comes to safety and force protection. Each of us has a responsibility to look within and ensure we are making the right choices and are conscious

of our surroundings. We also have a responsibility to each other to challenge and to ask questions in an attempt to head off potential mishaps and dangers. Remember, each of us is important and vital to the accomplishment of the mission. I ask everyone to stay involved.

I am a firm believer that teamwork, standards, and discipline will ensure that we accomplish our goals and objectives together. I am proud of each and every one of you. You make the difficult look easy. Victory's Voice! Loud and Clear!



COL Frederick A. Cross, The 22nd Signal Brigade commander, salutes at the 22nd Signal Brigade change of responsibility

## TASK FORCE ADLER CSM

# STANDARDS AND DISCIPLINE

CSM Thomas J. Clark

My name is Clark and I'm a Soldier.

I am amazed at the transformation and improvements made by the 3rd and 35th Signal Brigade. The mission and threats are much different than when the 22nd left in February of 2004. In 2002, the brigade deployed all of its assets to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade supplied communications for possibly, the last ever "Corps in the Attack." In establishing the largest tactical network in history, the V Corps network covered approximately 172 thousand square miles, stretching from Kuwait to the Iraqi borders of Syria, Iran and Turkey. The 22nd Signal Brigade will again prove itself worthy of its motto, "VICTORY'S VOICE!"

As the brigade traveled from Germany to Kuwait (for RSOI operations) and transitioned for wartime operations in Iraq. I was constantly impressed with the professionalism, tactical and technical proficiency of our Soldiers and leaders as they carried out these dangerous and important missions.

We just completed a two week right seat, left seat ride with the 35th Signal Brigade. I had the opportunity to work with a true professional, CSM Jordan – to CSM Jordan and the Soldiers of the 35th we wish you the best on a safe return to Fort Bragg and your families.

We are prepared to assume the mantle of responsibility. We have much to learn and a great

deal to accomplish. Our mission is straightforward, protect the force, continue the momentum of the 35th, improve communications support throughout the AOR, and posture the unit that will backfill us with the enhanced capability beyond what we found when we arrived.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Signal Brigade now assumes its mission to provide the Multi-National Corps – Iraq, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, Task Force Olympia, 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force, and Coalition Forces with continued outstanding signal support.

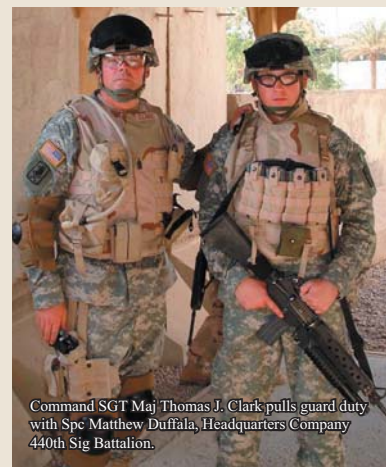
The 22<sup>nd</sup> Signal Brigade is currently comprised of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 136<sup>th</sup> and 440<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalions, and the 842<sup>nd</sup> and 578th Signal Companies.

Leaders, I ask that you revisit muzzle awareness, muzzle discipline and convoy procedures with

all of our forces. In the past year, the coalition has lost nearly a dozen warriors to negligent discharges and another three dozen were injured. None would have happened but for lack of muzzle awareness and leader involvement. Safety always!

Families of Task Force Adler, Janice, Crystal, Thomas and I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. We all miss our loved ones but remember you are our "Heroes at Home."

My name is Clark and I'm a Soldier! Victory's Voice!



Command SGT Maj Thomas J. Clark pulls guard duty with Spc Matthew Duffala, Headquarters Company 440th Sig Battalion.

TASK FORCE ADLER CHAPLAIN

## PRAYER IS VITAL, IT IS LIKE COAL

Chaplain (LTC) Dixey R. Behnken



Ch. (LTC) Dixey R. Behnken, prays with the families of Headquarters Company, 22d Signal Brigade.



Submitted by Ch. (LTC) Dixey R. Behnken

Prayer is to faith as coals are to the fire. When it gets colder, we turn up the heat. When the campfire burns low, we throw on an extra log. And when we come under stress or crisis, we turn up the prayer. At least I do.

God answered our prayers. Every Soldier made it here without incident. Once we arrived in Baghdad, the combat escort convoys began taking the SENs and node centers out to distant places with strange names that I have trouble pronouncing. The convoys have all returned successfully. I believe that God is due our thanks and our gratitude. We still have more Soldiers coming for rotation to join us from the states, so don't give up on the prayers! We've got a long way to go.

I want to encourage you, the scripture says that "the effective fervent prayer of a righteous person avails greatly!" I am a firm believer in prayer. Know that God hears your prayers and wants to be involved in your life.

Everyone can grow in their prayer life. If you just set aside a certain place, for a specific time, say 12 minutes. Moms, maybe you'll want to do this before you get out of bed each day, or after the kids are in bed each night. Use the acronym, ACTS, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (asking God for your daily needs). Using the acronym, ACTS, will provide order for your prayers. Just take three minutes with each letter. You will find that regular

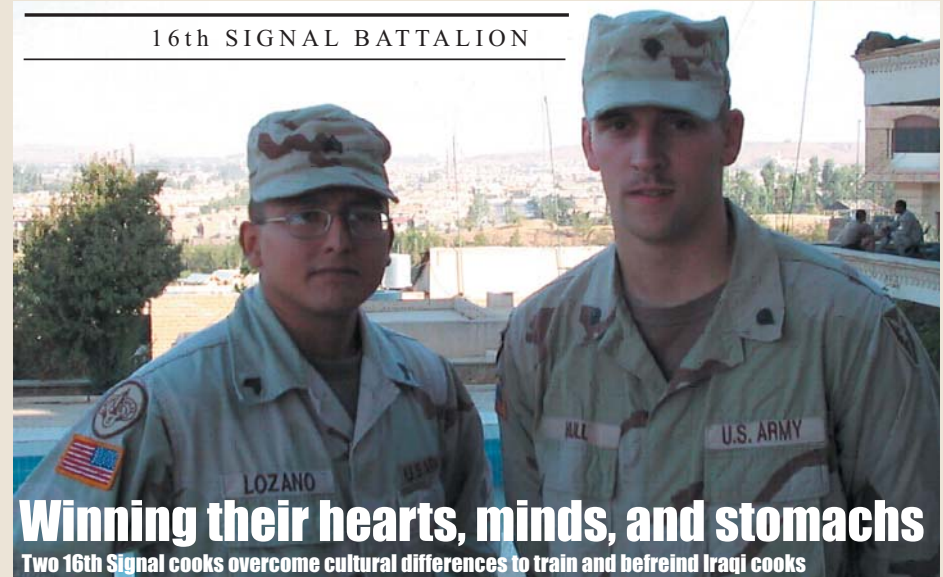
prayer provides deep reservoirs of inner strength. Jesus said, "Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Lieutenant General John Vines, the Multi-National Coalition-Iraq Commander, spoke at our Transfer of Authority and closed with this thought: "In a poker game, you put your chips on the table. Our blue chips are all on the table! They are very valuable chips. You see, the chips on the table are the lives of our children and our grandchildren and the future they will have to live in. What we do here in Iraq is to ensure for them a better future. We may be called on to sacrifice, but that just goes to show how much we love freedom, doesn't it? We are willing to give up some of our freedoms, so that others may have it too!"

The worship services here are quite full, as you can imagine. They begin at 7:00 a.m. and continue unabated every two hours until 8:00 p.m. Don't forget how much God loves you and wants to help you through the tough times! Go to a chapel service and build bonds of strength with other believers. Their support and encouragement will lift your spirits. You can also build bonds of strength through the Family Readiness Group! Julie told me of the colossal work that Eran and Kelly are doing with the FRG (and I know that others are helping immensely). We are truly blessed with these two tireless leaders! Grace and Peace be with you All!

The Talon, November 2005

16th SIGNAL BATTALION



## Winning their hearts, minds, and stomachs

Two 16th Signal cooks overcome cultural differences to train and befriend Iraqi cooks

They say the fastest way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Members of the 16th Signal Battalion may have proven that to be true. Recently, SGT Jose Lozano and SPC Alex Hull, Food Service Specialists from HHC, conducted two weeks of training with their food service counterparts from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division at Forward Operating Base Sykes in northern Iraq.

While the Iraqi Army Division has its own cooks who prepare food for their division each day, none were trained in field food service operations. Fourteen of their cooks were selected by their command sergeant major to learn how to prepare meals in a field environment with their newly acquired, Russian-made MKTs, or Mobile Kitchen Trailers. SGT Lozano and SPC Hull teamed with two other cooks from the 94th Engineer Battalion to provide the training.


The American cooks developed a training plan that focused on sanitation, safety, and proper food preparation methods. The Iraqi cooks hailed from all across northern Iraq. At first they seemed timid about working with the American Soldiers and even a bit skeptical of the training. But two events quickly changed that.

"The Russian MKTs use kerosene fuel which is not

as safe as the fuel we use. On the third day, one of the MKTs caught fire when the feed hose came unconnected from the grill. We used up all of our fire extinguishers and then threw sand on the fire to put it out. After that, the Iraqi's trusted us a lot more and became more involved in the training. Around that same time, some of the Iraqi Soldiers got sick from the food at the Iraqi dining facility. When nobody got sick at our MKT, they started paying more attention to the food sanitation standards we had been teaching them," said SGT Lozano. The American Soldiers quickly adapted to some of the cultural differences that they noticed which greatly improved the training, as well. Most notable was the Iraqi's preference for hands on training, so SGT Lozano dropped the classroom training to spend more time on the MKT. Through their translator, Sam, they trained the cooks to prepare food for 20 Soldiers, then 50, then 100. "After a few days, Sam became so familiar with the training that he could answer their questions and do it without our help," noted SPC Hull. "The Iraqi's are very friendly and open and they have excellent discipline," says SPC Hull, "I would definitely do it again."

The Talon, November 2005





COL Frederick A. Cross, The commander of the 22d Signal Brigade, and  
Command SGT Major Thomas J. Clark, uncase and unfurl the 22d Signal  
Brigade colors, symbolizing the return of authority over the Multi national  
Corps - Iraq networks to the 22d Signal Brigade.

# IT'S OFFICIAL: WE'RE BACK -- IN IRAQ

Story, Photos, and Photo illustrations by SPC Michael Howard





## COVER STORY

**“Through teamwork, enforcing high standards, and maintaining discipline, we will make it happen.”** - COL FREDERICK A. CROSS

empire of Japan, the third Reich had neither the capability or intention to destroy the United States. The terrorists have demonstrated not only a will, but the capability to use technology that’s developed, ironically, in the west, to take us back to the good old days of the 8th century,” said Vines, “Our mission is pretty simple, those that we can persuade to stop, we will persuade, those that we can’t persuade, we must kill or capture. And we must do it relentlessly.”

COL Bryan W. Ellis, the 35th Signal Brigade commander, acknowledged that they are leaving the hardest part of the mission for the brigade who is able to accomplish it. “The easiest stuff has already been accomplished, and it’s just tough stuff that’s left. We wish you good fortune as you meet and defeat the daily challenges that you will face.”

Though the 22d is facing its highest hurdle ever and the toughest part of the mission yet, COL Frederick A. Cross, the 22d Signal Brigade commander, is not intimidated. “The 22d Signal Brigade and Task Force Adler are fully prepared and ready to assume this wartime mission,” said Cross. “Through teamwork, enforcing high standards, and maintaining discipline, we will make it happen.”



COL Bryan W. Ellis, The commander of the 35th Signal Brigade, and Command SGT Major James R. Jordan case and furl the 35th Signal Brigade colors, symbolizing the release of authority over the Multinational Corps - Iraq networks to the 22d Signal Brigade.





The color guard for the 22d Signal Brigade holds the colors high, symbolizing the brigade's renewed authority over the Multi-National Corps - Iraq network.

If you ask Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, the commander of the Multi-National Corps – Iraq, on Nov 9, the 22d Signal brigade stepped up to the helm to do their part in a war that has gone on longer than Vietnam, with greater stakes than World War II. Unlike those wars, the Global War on Terrorism that the 22d is fighting today still rages on at a fever pitch.

The people who think that this war started in 2001 are mistaken, said Vines. 2001 was simply the date that it

dawned on the American public that their country was at war.

In reality these attacks have been taking place for over 25 years, said Vines. On 5 November 1979 Iranian militants, Islamists, overran the American embassy. They held diplomats and marines and other Americans hostage for 444 days. In 1983, terrorists bombed the American embassy and Marine barracks

**“Our mission is pretty simple, those that we can persuade to stop, we will persuade, those that we can’t persuade, we must kill or capture.” - LTG. JOHN R. VINES**

## COVER STORY

in Beirut, killing 241 marines and 14 diplomats. In 1993, Islamic militants attacked the World Trade Center for the first time. The list goes on and on. Despite attack after attack, 2001 is when America chose to fight back.

As the 22d transitions into its new role, it will face a tougher, dirtier, and more important fight than it has seen before, even during its first turn in 2003. “The battle space has changed dramatically since the spring of 2003 when 22nd signal brigade supported V corps on their initial attack. On a given day today we’ve got a different kind of a war fight and it requires different technology. Technology that even two years ago did not exist, was not employed and most of us didn’t know how to use. It’s a 360 degree battle space, one that requires every warrior to be vigilant, to look out for their buddy, to protect each other and to be ready to engage 360, 24/7,” said Vines. Not only is the situation more dangerous than ever, the stakes are higher than ever before. “Unlike those who we fought in World War II, some 60 years ago, whose aims were more modest, their spheres of influence, the terrorists that we face today want nothing less than our destruction. As vast as World War II was, the



COL Frederick A. Cross, the 22d Signal Brigade commander, poses with Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, the commander of the Multi-National Corps – Iraq.





# B LTC Freeman... Battalion Commander?

Story and photo illustration by  
SPC Michael Howard

But for a minor twist of fate, LTC Ivory M. Freeman, the S-2 OIC for the 22d Signal Brigade, would likely be preparing to take responsibility for an air force flight. Now, he is in a position to take command of a Battalion. Right before a fortuitous scholarship brought him into the army as a commissioned officer, Freeman wanted to join the air force as an enlisted man.

Instead, in a ceremony Nov. 3, directly outside of the Coalition Network Operations Center, Freeman was promoted to the rank of LTC.

"This is a dependable, quality leader who has proven himself over and over during his time here in this brigade. We've gone to him not just on intelligence matters, on which he is an expert, but many other matters as well," said 22d Signal Brigade Commander Frederick A. Cross.

Freeman attributed his success to date largely to the NCOs who have mentored him over the years and the NCO Corps as a whole.

"A lot of the old folks from the town I grew up in said 'look, what you need to do when you get to your first unit is to find a squared away NCO, and to go to that NCO, and ask them to train you.' As an officer, every job I've had up until now, I've continued to do that. If I understand their job, and they have the willingness to train me, then I've just become a better officer."

1SG Bobbie Brown Jr. says that Freeman took that advice and followed it to the letter. "I've had the pleasure of working with him, planning a mission, executing a mission, and he not only understands,

but he solicits the enlisted opinion, the enlisted experience, he understands it and that embodies his role in the army."

Freeman attributes his implicit understanding of the enlisted ranks to his time as an Air Defense Artillery officer. Starting out in the Reserve component, he took part in a program that allowed him to go out of his preferred MOS to attain active duty status faster. He spent his first four years of service in a combat arms unit.

"The Air Defense Artillery proved to be a great opportunity, because, just working with combat arms, it's a different mentality, different focus, different way of doing business. A lot of responsibility is pushed down to the sergeants, and you have to learn the system."

Freeman was hard pressed to name just one highlight of his career, saying that most of his career has been one big highlight. He said that the best thing the army has given him was a wife.

"Without the military, I never would have had the opportunity to meet my wife. They always say that if the army wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one. Well, they gave me an assignment in Fort Hood, I met her, so I think that they did issue me one," said Freeman.

Freeman knows that the next thing in line for him is a battalion command. But beyond that, he will take the opportunities as they come.

Said Freeman, "My whole thought process is that if I'm enjoying my career, I'm going to stay around. So after 17 plus years, I'm still having fun."





## LEGAL



Submitted by: Brigade Operational Law Team (BOLT) CPT Grimes, SFC Provost, SPC Gardner

As we start the deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom, it is important to be aware of how our personal possessions and high dollar value items will be cared for in Iraq. In Iraq, there is an imminent risk of damage to personal property due to fire, water saturation, enemy attack, or theft. Many Soldiers may already be familiar with the Chapter 11 claims process. Essentially, the Government pays the Soldier a percentage of what his or her personal property was worth at the time of damage or destruction. The claims process is not a substitution for insurance. If you have renters insurance, you are required to inform the Judge Advocate of that fact when you are filing a claim. If you do NOT have renters insurance, you may want to acquire some, especially if you plan on having many high dollar value items. Having insurance means that in the event of a calamity that you will be compensated more

than you would by simply going through the Chapter 11 Claims process. During a deployment, Soldiers may file Chapter 11 claims for property damaged by the negligence of the Government or an unforeseen act such as a trailer fire. Chapter 11 claims cannot be filed if the Soldier was responsible for the damage or was negligent in the care of his or her possession. Furthermore, the Soldier may NOT be compensated for many items that the Military may provide, such as PLGRS, extra uniforms, M-16A2 modification equipment, certain tools, etc. Also, Soldiers may not be compensated for heirlooms, expensive jewelry, or items that are not considered fair and reasonable to have during the deployment. Here is a list of what is fair and reasonable to possess on a one year deployment:

100 Compact Discs, 100 DVD's,  
25 Video Games

3 computer peripherals (all \$200 or less)

Hobby items (such as musical instruments and accessories, wood carving kits, etc.) may not exceed \$500 in total value.

It is reasonable for Soldiers to own entertainment equipment while on deployment, however, the limit that Army will compensate a Soldier for on this deployment will be either:

1 Laptop w/ DVD (\$1750 or less)

OR

1 TV (\$300 or less)

1 DVD player (portable \$300 or less)

1 Console Gaming System (PSP \$300 or less)

1 Stereo System (\$300 or less)

This is not an inclusive list. The servicing Judge Advocate will be the final authority on what is fair and reasonable for claims purposes.

The Talon, November 2005

## THE SOLDIERS' VOICE



## Combatives are coming

By SPC Michael Howard

On Nov 4, 2005, the army held its inaugural All Army Combatives Tournament in Ft. Benning, GA. The U.S. Army Infantry homepage reported it as a "tremendous success." Unfortunately, the results sheet was totally dominated by stateside units. Not a single overseas unit team, or even a single overseas Soldier, placed within the top three of any weight class. I certainly don't think that this is due to a lack of talent on our part. I can think of several Soldiers within Headquarters Company, 22d Signal Brigade alone who could compete very successfully. I can think of at least one who would be almost certain to finish in the top three in his weight class. As the main body of the 22d is deployed, distance and mission are certainly factors this time, but perhaps they won't be next year. After all, units did come from as far away as Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, home to the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion. In the 501st, so many eager Soldiers wanted to represent the battalion that the 501st held a three day tournament, with the winners earning the right to go to the All Army tournament. This is the kind of interest that it would be wonderful to have everywhere. Army com-

batives has a brief but storied history, and is catching on like few ideas have before.

Modern Army Combatives began in the mid-1990s when the elite battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment, specifically the 2nd Ranger Battalion, hired Gracie family instructors Royce and Rorion to instruct troops in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

The Rangers absorbed the teachings and became fanatic in their ground fighting, holding Battalion tournaments in which the victors were sent to study at the Gracie Academy in Torrance. The Rangers then began to modify the jiu-jitsu techniques for combat use. SFC Matt Larsen incorporated several other martial arts into the system such as Muay Thai, wrestling, and Kali. Shortly thereafter, SFC Larsen, literally wrote the book on Modern Army Combatives: "FM3-25.150," which was to become official Army hand-to-hand doctrine.

The Marine Corps has already accepted combatives as essential in the new 360 degree battlefield, having developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, but the Army is the only service that is fully embracing it. It also says a lot for the mainstream acceptability of a sport that only a few years ago was regularly compared to "human cockfighting."

The Army used to be known as gargantuan bureaucracy in many ways, and had been historically slow to accept change. It is a testament to the changing commands that a program based on mixed martial arts would flourish.

Now, Regulations on the verge of implementation will require one level two combatives trainer per company (two week course at Ft. Benning Ga.), and one level three combatives trainer per battalion (four week course at Ft. Benning, Ga.) With combatives fast becoming mandatory, units like the 501st are leading the way, preparing all of their Soldiers for the new program. Deployed in Iraq, with almost all Soldiers having access to gyms and mats, the 22d has never been in a better position to follow. As far as Headquarters is concerned, Maj. Michael T. Naifeh, the 22d Signal Brigade adjutant, is teaching a combatives class on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 p.m. Soldiers that come to learn will be getting a head start on the program. The 22d has a lot to gain by emulating the 501st.

The Talon, November 2005



# TAKE THE **MONEY** AND RUN

Financial Wisdom and advice from 22d Signal Brigade  
Historian CPT Dan Burns

Several Task Force Adler Soldiers have asked me for financial advice recently. I am always glad to help a fellow Soldier. My advice could also help some of you. Since we are deployed in a combat zone, we are all making a bit more money than usual. One question that I have been asked is, "What should I do with the extra money?"

The following are some guidelines to help with this important decision.

**Pay Off your Debt!**

If you are in debt, then the first thing you should do is pay off any high interest debts that you owe. Pay the minimum payment for each debt that you have; then pay an extra chunk of money to the debt with the highest interest rate. Pay as much as you can spare toward the highest interest debt until it is paid off. Then shift your priority to your next highest interest debt until all

your debts are paid. In rare cases, you may have a debt with such a low interest rate that you will want to stick to the minimum payment.

If you don't know how much interest you are being charged on your debts: Find Out! Then contact each creditor to see if you can get a lower interest rate. Many creditors will give you a lower rate if you just ask them. You can also transfer balances to get lower interest. This will help you pay your debts quicker.

**Savings Deposit Plan (SDP)**

If you are debt free, there is a special investment available only to deployed Soldiers: The Savings Deposit Plan (SDP). On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of deployment, you can deposit up to your entire pay

minus Allotments into the SDP. You can continue making deposits each month until the amount reaches \$10,000. The beauty of this account is that it receives a guaranteed 10% per year interest rate. If you max out this program, you will have an extra \$1,000 at the end of the year. (Note: Be sure the money gets

to Finance before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month or you will not get credit for that month.) The money in the SDP continues to draw interest for up to 3 months after you re-deploy.

**Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):**  
**Special Combat Strategy**

I am normally a big fan of the Thrift Savings Program (TSP). However, now that we are deployed, the [tax] tables have turned. Normally, maxing out the TSP gives you a nice break on your taxes. Since we are deployed, our income is non-taxable. I recommend minimizing your TSP while deployed...then

maxing it out for the remaining taxable months of 2005. In 2005, the 10% limit for TSP contributions will be removed. This will allow you to go up to the IRS Elective Deferral Limit of \$15,000. If you minimize your TSP contribution while deployed, then put your entire paycheck (minus allotments) in the TSP for the taxable months of 2005, your income tax could be near zero. Just be sure to set aside enough cash during the deployment for living expenses during the months where you will max the TSP. (Helpful website: [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).) Disclaimer: I hope that you can get some benefit from my advice. I have not received any endorsements from any company or website that I mentioned. I am not a trained or certified financial manager



CPT Dan Burns



CSM Eric L. Willis, the command sergeant major of the 440th Signal Battalion, and CSM Ronald S. Pfieger, the command sergeant major of the 327th Signal Battalion, unveil the wall of the renamed conference room.

## A Brother lost, a brotherhood bound

Story By SPC Howard, Photo By SPC O'neal

As the 440<sup>th</sup> battalion prepared to see the 327<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion back home, they provided a close to the Transfer of Authority by dedicating their conference room in the name of a fallen Soldier from the 327<sup>th</sup>, SSG Samuel T. Castle.

CSM Eric L. Willis intended the gesture to give the honor due the Soldiers of the 327<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion and show the solidarity of the Signal Corps.

"We wanted to honor him and his family, the memories of him serving. We remember those who serve. And just in case the 327<sup>th</sup> must return to this area one day, they could see this room again. It kind of lends a heritage to this organization," said Willis.

"It's a great thing. It shows that the signal corps is the signal corps, not just two separate battalions coming in to replace each other. A very nice gesture. Usually, when you dedicate something, and you leave, the incoming unit says, "oh, we don't want that" and just pull it out, so I think this is a great team builder," remarked Command Sgt Maj. Ronald S. Pfieger, the command sergeant major of 327<sup>th</sup> signal Battalion.

One of the reasons the dedication means so

much to them, said Lt. Col Charles H. Gabrielson, commander of the 327<sup>th</sup> Signal battalion, is that SSG Castle was one of the most looked up to and respected Soldiers in the entire Battalion.

"SSG Castle had been in Alpha company since he was a private. He was a superb athlete and a natural leader. He was a little bit bigger than life. All of the young Soldiers looked up to him. That was because he was smart, mostly because he was a superb athlete. He was always the quarterback, never the back. Being that he was with our unit for so long, our units are pretty tight, people stay in our unit forever, so when we lose someone, it's pretty big. He's like a brother. It devastated most of the young Soldiers," said Gabrielson. On the whole, said Willis, dedicating the room was simply the right thing to do.

"I think it was an honor to share this with the battalion we are doing the transfer of authority with, the 327<sup>th</sup> Airborne Nighthawks. We get to see them out the door and show them their service to this country is greatly appreciated," said Willis.



## Photo of the month

Cpl. Florio Pierre, the 440th Signal Battalion Chaplain, prays with a combat convoy just prior to their departure for Balad.



### Task Force Adler Photographers:

We are looking for your photos to compete for this page in the next issue. Every issue will have a photo of the month. Winners will have their photo posted in the Talon.

Send all submissions to [Brandon.Spragins@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:Brandon.Spragins@iraq.centcom.mil)



# IRAQI ARMY RANKS

